

Serial No. 10/779,815

REMARKS

Claims 9-16 are pending. Claims 1-8 and 17 have been canceled. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The specification has been amended to correct minor errors. Paragraph 0005 has been amended to correct a grammatical error. Paragraph 0038 has been amended to change the reference to "tables 1-3" to the "tables of Figs. 8-10," since the tables in this application were not given table numbers.

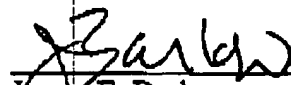
Claims 1-8 were rejected. Claims 1-8 have been canceled and thus will not be discussed.

Claims 9-16 were objected to as depending on a rejected base claim. However, claims 9-16 were said to be allowable if written in independent form including the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 9 has been written in independent form including the limitations of claim 1. Therefore, claims 9-16 are considered to be in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 01-0305.

Respectfully submitted,


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